

## The role of the Bioethical Committees.

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We agree with Cartes-Velásquez<sup>1</sup> when he states that the bureaucracy involved in the review and approval of research projects by the Bioethical Committees (BC) should be kept to a minimum and focus on the protection of patients' rights. However, it is very important to point out that another important role of the BC is to protect the researchers themselves, which is achieved by a correct preparation of the research project.

The BCs must make the effort to carry out informative and training events for the researchers, including information about ethical standards for research with humans. At the same time, a BC must ensure the promotion of the training and education of its members so that they take a conscious, independent action, always seeking the protection of the people involved in the investigation. It is also up to the BCs to supervise and to control projects, aiming to protect the subjects of the investigation, mainly those belonging to the most vulnerable populations.

According to Freitas *et al.*,<sup>2</sup> it is a challenge to find methods to accompany the development of institutional research, and to establish mechanisms that ensure that what is proposed in the project is really what is put into practice. It is undoubtedly very difficult to carry out this type of control, and despite all the efforts, the difficulties continue worldwide. Fortunately, in many BC a computerized system is being created with the aim of reducing waiting times and some procedures for the approval of projects.

In the current increasingly complex scenario, the BC have an essential role in ensuring respect for the human being and must continue to face the inevitable challenges.

### REFERENCES.

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